

St. David's C of E Primary School

Enquiring minds, caring hearts, creative hands



Homework Policy September 2020

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| Date policy ratified | September 2020 |
| Date for review | September 2023 |

*At St David's we have our vision at the core of everything we do for pupils and for all staff members;
Our school's Christian foundation guides, challenges and inspires every child to reach their full
potential as they become life-long learners and confident citizens, equipped to lead and serve.*

As a school we look to the teachings of the Bible to underpin our ethos:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and your neighbour as yourself.

Mark 12:30-31



Introduction

At St. David's C of E Primary School we believe in providing the best possible education for children of all abilities to ensure they make great progress. We greatly value the links between home and school and set out clear guidelines for homework which are shared with the children and parents.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents/carers are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment by reinforcing their learning.
- Ensure that homework activities are accessible to all children.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to children and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage children and their parents/carers to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Practise and consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in maths and English.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- Prepare Year 6 children for the transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a child's school careers.
2. The amount and frequency of homework should increase as children get older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the child, family or the teacher.
4. Homework will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the EYFS to Year 6.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the child's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

Foundation stage:

A 10 minute daily activity is encouraged in Early Years.

Monday – Reading and sound books

Tuesday – Maths work (Maths Passport)

Wednesday – Reading and sound book

Thursday – Tricky words

Friday – Reading and sound book

Years 1 and 2:

Homework in Years 1 and 2 is encouraged to be as independent as possible.

- Read for at least 15 minutes daily
- Practise spellings ready for the weekly spelling test

Homework listed below will start from Autumn Term 2 for Years 1 and 2.

- 1 weekly maths task which should take no longer than 10-15 minutes
- 1 weekly English task which should take no longer than 10-15 minutes
- A topic grid will be sent home at the start of the topic with a choice of activities. 2 of the activities should be complete at the end of every topic (set using Microsoft Teams).

Years 3 and 4:

- Read for at least 20 minutes daily.
- Daily times table practise.
- Practise spellings ready for the weekly spelling test
- 1 weekly Maths task which should take no longer than 20 minutes
- 1 weekly English task which should take no longer than 20 minutes
- A topic grid will be sent home at the start of the topic with a choice of activities. 2 of the activities should be complete at the end of every topic (set using Microsoft Teams).

Year 5:

- Read daily for at least 20 minutes. Children should be encouraged to read for a longer period 3 times a week.
- Daily times table practise.
- Practise spellings ready for the weekly spelling test
- 1 weekly Maths task which should take no longer than 30 minutes
- 1 weekly English task which should take no longer than 30 minutes
- A topic grid will be sent home at the start of the topic with a choice of activities. 2 of the activities should be complete at the end of every topic (set using Microsoft Teams).

Year 6:

- Read daily for at least 20 minutes. Children should be encouraged to read for a longer period 3 times a week.
- 1 weekly reading comprehension
- Practise spellings ready for the weekly spelling test
- 1 weekly Maths task which should take no longer than 30 minutes
- 1 weekly English task which should take no longer than 30 minutes
- A topic grid will be sent home at the start of the topic with a choice of activities. 2 of the activities should be complete at the end of every topic (set using Microsoft Teams).

At times, to encourage transition to secondary, prepare for assessment and general independency, Year 6 children may have additional homework set as the year progresses.

Timings

Homework will be set as follows:

- In EYFS small homework activities will be set daily.
- Years 1-6, homework will be set on a Wednesday to be completed and returned by the following Monday.

Most homework will be sent home with the children and returned as a hard copy. As listed above, 'Topic Grid' homework will be set using Microsoft Teams.

Homework Tasks

We use a variety of homework tasks and activities and although many will be used on a regular basis we will send tasks in various formats to ensure children are interested and motivated in their completion. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the children involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist children in the process of their academic development.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance about how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents meeting or at an open evening, if possible.
- Homework expectations for each year group will be discussed with children and parents.
- To set up regular homework in an easily-followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in each phase.
- To set homework which takes into account the needs of all children.
- To ensure all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children with house points who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to children in line with the marking and feedback policy.
- To provide an opportunity for homework to be completed in school, if children do not complete the work at home.

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance with the policy and ensure that homework activities are accessible to all children.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how successfully the policy is being implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school about the policy

Role of Parents/Carers.

- To support the school by ensuring that their children attempt the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their children to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their children when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their children with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At St David's School we are very keen for parents to support their children with homework. We encourage independence but understand that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents/carers get involved. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If parents/carers are unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

General

Wherever possible, staff will mark homework that is returned by children. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out

the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual children, or to groups of children.

If homework is not completed or returned, the children will be given opportunities to complete the homework in 'Catch up Club' on Monday and Tuesday break times. However, it is expected that all homework is completed and returned on time.

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We will assume the child is too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time, the teacher and the parent will agree on the work to be sent home, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- Children will complete homework that has not been done during their break/lunch time.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Status and Review Cycle: Non-statutory, Every 3 years

Responsible group: FGB

Date: September 2020

Next Review Date: September 2023